



Medical Research Council

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19th October, 1973

Dr. Paul Berg,
Stanford University Medical Center,
Department of Biochemistry,
Stanford,
CALIFORNIA 94305,
U. S. A.

Dear Paul,

I was naturally disappointed not to receive your exciting photos of SV 40 chromatin via the Kornbergs. I understand from Roger that you have said that both the configurations sketched in my letter of 18th September appear in your photos. However I cannot easily see how the description of the doughnut given in your letter to me (undated; received here 5th September) as 100 Å thick and "a contour length of 0.1 that of the free circular DNA" can possibly be correct if the DNA has a molecular weight of 3.4×10^6 and therefore a length, naked, of about 17,000 Å. Have you shown that the doughnuts contain the full SV 40 DNA? or does the written description given in your letter apply to the more extended snake-like forms?

We are still hoping to receive some of your pictures (with dimensions marked on them) but if you and Griffith feel that you cannot release them at this stage I would be glad if you would let me know as soon as possible, as in that case we shall have no choice but to repeat the work independently.

Best wishes to all at Stanford.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Francis'. The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Handwritten initials or a mark that appears to be 'file' or 'Hle', written in a cursive style.

F.H.C. Crick